



INDUSTRIAL & TIMBER OPERATIONS FIRE PREVENTION

Equipment is often the number one statistic of person-caused fires. Today's logging equipment has brought new challenges to operators on how to safely work in the woods without starting a fire. Here are some tips that timber operators and fire managers have found effective in reducing fire starts:

Equipment Safety Tips

- ▲ Chainsaws must have an approved spark arrester.
- ▲ All internal combustion equipment that is not turbo charged should have an approved spark arrester.
- ▲ Be sure to clean out carbon traps on spark arresters for every 50 hours of operation to maximize efficiency.
- ▲ Use caution while welding. Be sure to clear welding sites of combustible materials for 10 feet in all directions.
- ▲ Carry fire extinguishers and a shovel on all mobile equipment.
- ▲ Do not operate mechanized harvesting equipment when humidities are below 20%. This could include feller bunchers, hot saws and dozers.
- ▲ Chippers should be cleaned daily, especially around the exhaust system.
- ▲ Follow daily operations with a fire patrol equipped to take suppression action in case a fire accidentally starts.
- ▲ If you accidentally start a fire, extinguish it quickly. Be sure to notify local USFS or DNR offices so fire crews can ensure that the fire is dead out.

Tip from Fire Behavior Specialists

Purchase a digital humidity gauge from your Forestry Equipment Supplier. During high fire danger periods, take the humidity every hour. Divide the humidity by 4 and that gives you the dead fuel moisture of grasses and small diameter materials that are easily ignited. If the dead fuel moisture is below 5, watch out. Fires start with just a spark in these conditions.